23 ABSTRACT

## SECURE NETWORK COMMUNICATION

A method for a service provider (60) on a private network to provide a service for an external client (10) on an external network via a gateway (13) bridging the private and external networks, including the service provider carrying out the steps of allocating a virtual name to the service provider, making the virtual name available to a client (10) on the external network, binding the virtual name to the routing address of the gateway (60) on the external network and binding the virtual name to the routing address of the service provider (60) on the private network. The method finds particular application to network arrangements in which there is end-to-end security between the client (10) and the service provider (60) by providing a virtual name used globally for all routing so obviating the need for remapping of message addressed by the gateway (13).

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(Figure 5)